Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of the claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1~~ A method of connecting an external program to a server-based database system comprising:

instantiating an applications object to identify all executing applications in said server-based database system, said applications object being an instance of an applications class conforming to a component object model standard for interfacing to a business database;

instantiating an application object dynamically from said instantiated applications object to access at least one form and at least one menu in one of said executing applications;

setting a forms property of said application object to include said at least one form of said executing application;

setting a menus property of said application object to include a menu tree of said executing application, said menu tree identifying all menus in said executing application;

invoking an item event handler within said application object to catch all item events that are non-menu events from said executing application; and

invoking a menu event handler within said application object to catch all menu events from said executing application,

wherein said instantiating an application object comprises [[:]] instantiating a plurality of methods in said application object including:

a key board press method to simulate a key press event in the application;

a menu bar message method to send a new active business object; and

a message box to send a modal message box to the application and receive a returned button index.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said instantiating an application object comprises:

  instantiating a plurality of properties in said application object including:

    said forms property; and

    said menus property.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said instantiating an application object comprises:

  instantiating a plurality of events in said application object including:

    an item event; and

    a menu event.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 further comprising:

  responding to an item event, said item event is generated by said instantiated application object.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said responding to said item event comprises:

  retrieving a form object dynamically from said instantiated application object based on information obtained from said item event.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2 further comprises:

  responding to a menu event, said menu event being generated by said instantiated application object.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said responding to said menu event comprises:

  retrieving a form object dynamically from said instantiated application object based on information obtained from said menu event.

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 9~~ A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of executable instructions for performing a method comprising:

instantiating an applications object to identify all executing applications in said server-based database system, said applications object being an instance of an applications class conforming to a component object model standard for interfacing to a business database;

instantiating an application object dynamically from said instantiated applications object to access at least one form and at least one menu in one of said executing applications;

setting a forms property of said application object to include said at least one form of said executing application;

setting a menus property of said application object to include a menu tree of said executing application, said menu tree identifying all menus in said executing application;

invoking an item event handler within said application object to catch all item events that are non-menu events from said executing application; and

invoking a menu event handler within said application object to catch all menu events from said executing application,

wherein said instantiating an application object comprises [[:]] instantiating a plurality of methods in said application object including:

a key board press method to simulate a key press event in the application;

a menu bar message method to send a new active business object; and

a message box to send a modal message box to the application and receive a returned button index.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein said instantiating an application object comprises:

instantiating a plurality of properties in said application object including:

said forms property; and

said menus property.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein said instantiating an application object comprises:

instantiating a plurality of events in said application object including:

an item event; and

a menu event.

13. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said method further comprises:

responding to an item event, said item event being generated by said instantiated application object.

14. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the responding to said item event comprises:

retrieving a form object dynamically from said instantiated application object based on information obtained from said item event.

15. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 12 wherein said method further comprises:

responding to a menu event, said menu event being generated by said instantiated application object.

16. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein said responding to said menu event comprises:

retrieving a form object dynamically from said instantiated application object based on information obtained from said menu event.

17-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 25~~ A data processing system comprising:

means for instantiating an applications object to identify all executing applications in said server-based database system, said applications object being an instance of an applications class conforming to a component object model standard for interfacing to a business database;

means for instantiating an application object dynamically from said instantiated applications object to access at least one form and at least one menu in one of said executing applications;

means for setting a forms property of said application object to include said at least one
form of said executing application;

     means for setting a menus property of said application object to include a menu tree of
said executing application, said menu tree identifying all menus in said executing application;

     means for invoking an item event handler within said application object to catch all item
events that are non-menu events from said executing application; and

     means for invoking a menu event handler within said application object to catch all menu
events from said executing application,

     wherein said means for instantiating an application object comprises [[:]] means for
instantiating a plurality of methods in said application object including:

        a key board press method to simulate a key press event in the application;

        a menu bar message method to send a new active business object; and

        a message box to send a modal message box to the application and receive a
returned button index.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ data processing system of claim 26 wherein said means
for instantiating an application object comprises:

     means for instantiating a plurality of properties in said application object including:

        said forms property; and

        said menus property.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ data processing system of claim 27 wherein said means
for instantiating an application object comprises:

     means for instantiating a plurality of events in said application object including:

        an item event; and

        a menu event.

29. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim [[25]] 26 further comprising:

     means for responding to an item event, said item event being generated by said
instantiated application object.

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30. (Original) The data processing system of claim 29 wherein said means for responding to an item event comprises:

means for retrieving a form object dynamically from said instantiated application object based on information obtained from said item event.

31. (Currently Amended) The data processing system object of claim [[25]] 26 further comprising:

means for responding to a menu event, said menu event being generated by said instantiated application object.